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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUDE/STRATTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1958



Health Area Office,
Launceston,
Cornwall

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUDE/STRATTON

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- - - - -

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

W.PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of: Medical Officer of Health:
 Stratton Rural District Council
 Launceston Rural District Council
 Launceston Borough Council
 Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area No. 6 Cornwall County Council

School Medical Officer, Cornwall County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

P.DURSTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,294
Population	5,190
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1,691
Rateable value 1958	£75,024
Product of ld. rate	£299

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
<u>Live Births</u>				
Legitimate	47	27	20	10.40
Illegitimate	7	5	2	
<u>Stillbirths</u>	1	-	1	.18
<u>Deaths</u> (all causes)	101	45	56	19.46
Deaths from Puerperal Causes				
Puerperal and post abortive				
Sepsis				
Other Puerperal Causes				
			N I L	

Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live Births)

N I L

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7	6	13
Measles (all ages)	-	-	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUDE/STRATTON

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The vital statistics show an increase in the number of deaths and an increase in the number of births, but the adverse balance of deaths over births continued. Heart disease was once again the principal cause of death, followed by vascular lesions of the nervous system and cancer, in that order. No infant deaths occurred during the year, but one stillbirth was recorded.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low, no cases of diphtheria and no cases of poliomyelitis being notified. Vaccination against the latter disease continued during the year, with further extensions of the scheme.

In the sanitary circumstances of the District, the record is one of continued steady application to routine duties. This is unobtrusive and quite properly taken for granted, but on it depends the maintenance of the standards of public health expected by the population.

I must express my thanks to Mr. Durston, the Council's Public Health Inspector, for the valuable assistance he has given in all aspects of our work and in the preparation of this report. The Council's other Departments have continued their willing co-operation. I am grateful to the General Practitioners of the District for their continued co-operation.

Once again, it is a pleasure to express my appreciation of the help and encouragement I have received from the Council and, in particular, from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health

Natural and Social Conditions

Area (in acres) 4,294. The Urban District of Bude/Stratton is partly a health and seaside resort and partly agricultural in character. It is bounded at its western extremity by the Atlantic Ocean, the coast-line in this particular part of north Cornwall running almost due north and south.

Whilst the hinterland is undulating and hilly in character, contour heights seldom rise above 500 feet and this no doubt is in part the explanation for the exceedingly moderate rainfall figures, (average annual rainfall for 20 years 33.74"), which in view of exposure to the prevailing south westerly winds, might be expected to be considerably higher.

Population - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1958 to be 5,190 compared with 5,220 in the previous year. In 1958 there were 54 births and 101 deaths, 47 more deaths than births.

Deaths - The total number of deaths assigned to the District for the year was 101 compared with 79 in 1957. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 19.46 compared with 15.13 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1954	80	44	36	15.59
1955	82	44	38	15.92
1956	63	34	29	12.16
1957	79	32	47	15.13
1958	101	45	56	19.46

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.73 for this District.

The Standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 14.20 which may be compared with that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

Births - The number of live births assigned to this District was 54 compared with 44 in 1957. The rate per thousand of the population is 10.40. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.11) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 11.54 for this District compares with 16.4 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths - The number of stillbirths during 1958 was 1

Illegitimate Births - There were 7 illegitimate births assigned to the District during the year, compared with 1 in 1957. Shown as a proportion of the total number of live births, this represents 12.96 per cent.

Maternal Mortality - N I L

Infant Mortality - There were no deaths of infants in the first year of life.

N.B. Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to another, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13. Malignant, neoplasm uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	10	17
18. Coronary disease, angina	6	4	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	5	5
20. Other heart disease	6	9	15
21. Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	5	1	6
24. Bronchitis	-	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	9	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
34. All other accidents	1	3	4
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
	45	56	101

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district, and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

County Council Services

- I Health Department. The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 and provides the following services in the district :-
 - (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
 - (b) Health Visiting. The nurse midwives act also as health visitors and with special training in the care of the mother and young child, are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. They act also as school nurses.
 - (c) Infant Welfare Centre. A fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Castle, Bude.
 - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic held at the Castle, Bude
 - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough are provided at the Infant Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor. Regular sessions are held for poliomyelitis vaccination.
 - (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
 - (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utility sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin

(h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the home treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, while health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.

(j) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Duly Authorised Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department. As local Education Authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education.

Treatment Clinics at the Castle, Bude:.

Dental Clinics every second Thursday.

Speech Therapy each Friday morning.

Child Guidance, by arrangement at Plymouth

Child Guidance Clinic.

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the District works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

Hospital Services

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the Area.

Stratton Cottage Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy or Tehidy Sanatoria. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at the Castle, Bude and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Dawfield Hospital, Holsworthy. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital. An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Castle, Bude. A Specialist Ante-Natal Clinic is held at the Launceston Health Clinic each week.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are submitted.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES. The District may be considered under three main headings for the purpose of water supplies, namely :-

- (a) Those parts of the District supplied by the Council's Water Undertaking.

The Tamar Lake collection reservoir continues to supply ample water for present and future extended needs, but, in spite of additional measures, pressures are reduced considerably in the higher parts of the distribution area at the height of the season, due to restricted filtration, storage and distribution facilities. The scheme for the improvement of these facilities, devised by the Engineer in 1952 on the instructions of the Public Health Committee, has made no further progress. It is to be regretted that the uncertainty with regard to the future of water supplies in this particular area, and the possibility of the Water Undertaking being absorbed into the area of a larger Water Board, together with the unsatisfactory financial climate, has caused the Council to hesitate to embark on any major works of improvement.

The summer routine of putting into operation the Leigh Reservoir (capacity 98,000 gallons, top water level 322' above O.D.), and Hillhead Reservoir (capacity 50,000 gallons, top water level 227' above O.D.), employed for the first time in 1957, was repeated in 1958, and these reservoirs were used to supplement the quantity of water in the mains supplying Stratton and Bude respectively, during periods when pressures were low. The effect of the scheme when put into operation was that during the quiet periods, when pressure in the mains was high, notably during the early hours of the morning, the tanks were replenished until full, through ball valves. As the draw-off became heavier, and pressure in the mains was reduced, reflux valves came into operation, and water from the tanks flowed into the mains to augment the depleted supply. In practice it was found that whilst little or no water flowed into the tanks during the daytime, when pressure in the mains was relatively low, the tanks were never drained, and always filled up during the night. There can be no doubt that the two storage reservoirs assisted considerably the supply of water to the higher parts of the District, particularly Poughill and Hillhead, and very few complaints were received with regard to water pressures. Whilst considerable satisfaction can be felt at the absence of complaints, it must be noted that the summer of 1958, and indeed the whole year, were not normal in respect of rainfall figures. The rainfall for June 1958 was 3.82", as compared with a figure of 2.72" in June 1957, or 213% of the average rainfall for June; in July the rainfall was 2.85", as compared with 2.89" in that month of the previous year, or 106% of the average for July; and in August 6.65" as compared with 3.52", or 236% of the average for August. In addition the year as a whole was wetter than average, the total annual rainfall being 43.03" as compared with an average of 33.33". It is felt, therefore, that a fair assessment of the use of the Leigh and Hillhead Reservoirs can only be made in a year when the rainfall is considerably lower, possibly below average.

- (b) Those parts of the adjoining Rural District supplied by the Council's Water Undertaking.

The Council continues to supply water to adjacent parts of the Rural District, although most of the latter is now supplied by the North Devon Water Board. Preliminary steps were taken to include the areas now supplied by the Council in the general scheme for the Rural District, and it is understood that an application for an Order to that effect has been made to the Ministry of Health, but at the time of writing nothing further has been accomplished. The possibility of a change taking place has, perhaps, been a contributory factor in deterring the Council from taking any further positive steps towards implementing the major scheme of improvement, since the water now supplied to the Rural District Council, if available for use in the Urban Area, would effect a considerable improvement to the present supply. It is to be hoped that the position will be clarified in the year that lies ahead.

- (c) Those parts of the Urban District not supplied by the Council's Water Undertaking.

Many of the properties in the Urban District not supplied with water from the Council's Undertaking are scattered, and in isolated positions. It is, therefore, not an economical proposition to provide them with a supply of main water. A few of these properties derive their supply from bore-hole wells, which provide adequate and bacteriologically pure water; but often shallow wells, or even surface springs, are utilized. Both of these give a very uncertain supply, both in quantity and purity.

Stage three of the Engineer's scheme, outlined in the report for 1952, (that is, the new 4" main from Stamford Hill to Inch's Shop with a high level reservoir of 40,000 gallons and a bore-hole well and submersible pump at Inch's Shop) would undoubtedly improve the supply to the higher parts of Poughill and provide a main supply to the hamlet of Bush, for the latter doing away with the need to use a number of shallow wells and surface springs. While these sources supply only a small part of the population, their liability to pollution and the fact that the water may be used untreated, gives rise to the danger that they may act as a vehicle for the transmission of disease-producing organisms. Modern public health standards demand a pure supply of drinking water for all members of the community and satisfaction cannot be felt while conditions such as these exist in the Urban District. It is to be hoped, therefore, that it will be found possible to give further consideration to this scheme in the near future.

A table of the results of bacteriological analyses is appended below. It will be noted that the number of Class IV samples was high. This was attributed, in a large measure, to the heavy rainfall, particularly in August, when considerable concentrations fell over short periods, as, for example, when 2" rain fell in one day. Chemical analyses have revealed that "The water contains a high percentage of humus of vegetable origin in solution".

This humus is known to absorb large amounts of sodium hypochlorite, and the abnormal amount of surface washings which must have been deposited in the Tamar Lake and the canal on its way to the filter beds, together with the heavy growth of the summer months, undoubtedly decreased the effectiveness of the chlorination process. The concentration of sodium hypochlorite injected into the mains was stepped up to a hitherto unprecedented degree during August and September, until residual readings of up to 1.0 parts per million were observed in tap waters in various parts of the distribution area. The concentration was then reduced very gradually until a normal reading (0.2 parts per million) was observed consistently, and from October to the end of the year satisfactory results were obtained. In addition to the increased concentration of chlorine over August and September, after three instances of serious flooding the Water Engineer advised members of the public to boil all water to be used for drinking purposes. This course of action was deemed advisable on account of the possible entrance of flood water into the mains, although no actual instance of such an occurrence was observed.

Reference has been made in previous Annual Reports to the method of chlorination of the water supply. This method - the addition of sodium hypochlorite solution to the water as it enters the trunk main - is probably the least satisfactory and it is felt that any future scheme of improvement should include provision for a more efficient process. It must be said, however, that, with an adequate dosage of chlorine and careful control, the present method of chlorination can give a satisfactory degree of purification, but in conditions of rainfall such as those occurring in 1958, the dosage of chlorine may necessarily be so high that, without dechlorination, it may render the taste of the water objectionable. This may lead to dissatisfaction and complaints from the public and may give rise to the danger, not a negligible one, that consumers may resort to less safe, but more palatable, supplies of water for drinking purposes.

Summary of bacteriological reports.

Filterbeds, Vealand.

(Filtered but unchlorinated).

Satisfactory
(No organisms)

9

Unsatisfactory

13

Tap water samples (Filtered and chlorinated)

	<u>Class I</u>	<u>Class II</u>	<u>Class III</u>	<u>Class IV</u>
Bude	12	1	Nil	3
Stratton	13	Nil	Nil	7
Poughill	14	1	Nil	2

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Bude. The sewerage of Bude is generally in a good condition, and the sewage is disposed of by means of a sea outfall. The system works very satisfactorily, and gives rise to no cause for complaint. Upton has now been part of the Bude sewerage system since 1954, when a new length of sewer was laid, to bypass the old disposal works at Upton, and to connect into the Bude system at Lynstone Farm, the old works being closed. There remain a few properties, mainly on the west (seaward) side of the Bude/Widemouth road still unconnected, and trouble has been experienced from time to time with the private disposal plants. Most of the properties could be connected to the main system by laying an additional length of sewer, at moderate expense. In fact, the matter has been discussed by the Public Health Committee, and a figure included in the Annual Estimates for the work to be carried out.

Poughill also has been a part of the Bude sewerage system since 1952. Most properties are connected, the only notable exception being the group in the Moor Cross area. The disposal plant for this part of the District, not having been designed for the number of houses which it now serves, has become overloaded, and gives rise to nuisances from time to time. This matter has also been discussed by the Public Health Committee, and a figure was included in the annual estimates for the carrying out of the work. It is hoped, therefore, that both of the above mentioned works will have been completed by the end of 1959.

Stratton. The disposal works at Stratton consist of detritus and pre-settlement tanks, settlement tanks and land irrigation. Improvements to the works were completed in 1953, and whilst these resulted in a better effluent, the main weakness of the system, the now almost obsolete method of land irrigation, on marshy land, subject to flooding from time to time, remains a problem, despite additional subsoil drainage and other works. Due to the extensive post-war housing programme, the works receive a considerably increased load, and this has further aggravated the problem. It is felt that a satisfactory effluent cannot be obtained until efficient filtration plant has been installed. It is admitted that this proposition presents difficulties, owing to the lack of fall between the drainage area and the works, but these difficulties could be overcome, and it is felt that the Council ought at least to consider the technical data and difficulties of providing filtration plant, even if it should be necessary to remove the works in whole or part, to another site. Every effort has been made to utilise existing facilities to the best possible advantage, with some degree of success, but the effluent from the works cannot, in general, be said to be of a satisfactory standard.

A scheme for relaying the sewerage of Stratton was drawn up some 11 years ago, but this, for various reasons, has had to be postponed indefinitely. Exposure of certain sections has shown that the sewerage of this area is, for the most part, old and in poor condition generally. No crisis has yet occurred, but in order to avoid such a contingency, the Council would be well advised to give the matter early consideration.

The Poundfield/Stamford Hill area continues to develop, and whilst it has been possible to connect recently erected houses to a combined drain, this solution can only be regarded as a compromise, the position with regard to existing cess-pits and septic tanks remaining something of a problem. The economic need for restricting capital expenditure is appreciated, but it is regretted that the item in the Annual Estimates, providing for the sewerage of this area, had to be deleted, and it is hoped that it will be possible to give it early reconsideration. Individual disposal arrangements, in an area which is rapidly becoming more and more urban in character, cannot be regarded as wholly satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A fully trained full-time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council to carry out the practical operation of the Act, a task which he performs very efficiently. It is felt that the Operator deserves much credit for the considerable freedom from infestation which the District continues to enjoy. An Area Workable Committee Meeting, held at Bodmin, was attended by delegates of the Council, and a Refresher Course, held at Plymouth, was attended by the Rodent Operator and the Public Health Inspector. The fact that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has relinquished interest in District Rodent Control, has not affected the Council directly, since it was already the practice to treat all farms in the District, and this practice has continued, with good results.

No formal proceedings were necessary under the Act. Private dwellings, business premises and Council properties have been subjected to regular treatments, and the degree of co-operation extended by owners of properties remains high.

For the annual test baiting of the sewerage systems, the "Salford Method" was employed for the first time as an experiment, which was watched with interest by members of the County organisation. In the "Salford Method" the system is employed of using muslin bags, suspended from the roof of a manhole, the bag containing a prepared mixture of Warfarin with a suitable preservative added. It was found in practice that these bags remained dry, and the contents in good condition over quite long periods, and they were left in position for twenty-one days. Two interesting features of the experiment were that :-

(1) Rats always commenced to eat from the top of the bag downwards, and not as one might have expected, from the bottom first, in which case the contents would have been wasted.

(2) By leaving the bags in position for twenty-one days, takes were recorded where none had been remarked before, indicating that the longer baits are left in position, the greater the likelihood of a completely effective treatment.

No. of survey visits by the Operator	1172
No. of treatments carried out	891
No. of revisits made	3092

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are now in the Area five licensed camping sites. One of these has a permanent licence, and the remaining four operate during the summer months only. The occupiers of the sites are very co-operative, and the standards of cleanliness and hygiene are high. Refuse is collected by the Council's refuse lorry at the times of collection normal to the respective areas. Three sites now have flush sanitation, connected to the main system, and two have chemical closets. One of the camps with chemical sanitation is small, and in an area which is wholly rural in character, but the other is in Bude, adjacent to the main sewer. However, the area in which this latter site is situated is now included in the Town Development Map as an area scheduled for residential development. Planning permission has been extended for a further twelve months, but it seems very unlikely that this temporary permission will be repeated.

A proposal was submitted late in 1957, and work was begun in 1958, on a new camping site at the Poughill end of Maer Lane. This proposal, which was approved, was to develop a site for the use of 150 units, and included making roads on the site, the installation of four ablution blocks, and main drainage from each caravan or unit, for the purpose of conveying away domestic waste water. The laying of 390 yards of 6" sewer, to connect with the Poughill system near Flexbury, and the erection of one block of ablutions, with the necessary 4" drainage on the site, was completed in the Spring, and during the season the site was utilised by some twenty units. It is understood that when the site is fully developed, the permanent licence for the other camping site at Maer will be relinquished. It therefore seems certain that two camping sites will be lost to the District. Each year the number of holidaymakers coming into the District appears to increase, and each year a higher percentage of that number is composed of campers. During the peak fortnight of the holiday season, around August Bank Holiday, the camps become very full, and it has to be decided whether it is preferable to allow extensive casual camping on road verges, cliffs, etc., or to permit some overcrowding of licensed sites where proper facilities are available. On balance, the latter course appears to be the better. Whilst even short-term overcrowding of camps is not a good thing, at least toilets, water supply, and refuse disposal arrangements are available, and adequate supervision by the proprietor, backed by inspections by the Council's staff, is sufficient to ensure that these facilities are not abused. On the other hand, casual campers in unauthorised sites, are, by their transience, difficult both to locate and control, and even where nuisances are discovered, it is virtually impossible to contact the persons responsible.

It is clear that a steady increase in the number of those coming into the District for camping holidays presents an inescapable problem, and it is an equally inescapable fact, based on observations over recent years, that the number of sites in the District, particularly when reduced by the two already mentioned above, will, in the near future, be quite inadequate to deal with the influx of camping holiday-makers.

It would seem that, as a first step, the Council would be well advised at least to consider possible suitable camping sites, in relation to the Town Development Map. Such sites would require to be situated so as not to interfere with the amenities of residential development, be reasonably level in contour, and within accessible distance of the main services.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Cornwall County Council control most of the roads in the District, but the work of street cleansing is carried out mainly by the Urban District Council's staff.

Refuse collection is undertaken throughout the District by the Council. The vehicle employed is a S & D "Chelsea" "W" type, fore and aft tipper, with side loading facilities, and a capacity of 11.3 cubic yards. It is manned by a driver and loader during the winter months, and the crew includes an additional loader during the summer months.

The method of controlled tipping continues to be employed for the disposal of refuse, and the tip at Tiscott Wood, whilst filling up considerably, appears to have an adequate capacity for several years to come. The use of partial incineration has been introduced during the year, the incinerator being sited on the Council's property on the Wharf at Bude. The method has been found useful for the disposal of waste paper and other combustibles.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47	-	No action
Section 50	-	One burial

HOUSING

In accordance with the policy adopted by the Council in the previous year, no council houses were erected during 1958, due to the Central Government's restrictions, and to the lack of council housing subsidies. Consideration was given to a continuation of the building programme, but it was decided that an economic rent, without the assistance of a subsidy, would be beyond the means of would-be tenants. Whilst subsidies were not withdrawn in the case of houses built for the purpose of rehousing tenants dispossessed by slum clearance programmes, the Council decided not to continue the building programme even to a limited degree for this purpose. A contributory factor in reaching this decision was that all existing housing sites were virtually fully developed by the end of 1957, and to continue building would have necessitated further extensive site works. The only slum clearance, therefore, which was carried out, was in respect of individual unfit houses, and by effecting repairs by informal/formal action under the Public Health Act, 1936.

The position with regard to private building remained more or less static, with a limited amount of speculative building, and by the end of the year, 13 private houses had been completed, and a further 4 were in the course of erection. These compare with figures of 16 and 5 respectively for the previous year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises and Clean Food.

The number and types of premises in the District are :-

Restaurants and hotel kitchens	45
Bakers and confectioners.....	5
Butchers.....	6
Dairies.....	5
Ice-cream dealers.....	25
Boarding houses.....	55
Greengrocers.....	10
Grocers.....	12
School canteens.....	3

No. of inspections of registered food premises.....95

No. of inspections of other food premises.....243

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Inspections and advisory visits to food premises in the District form an important part of the work of the Department, during the summer months particularly, due to the seasonal nature of most of the trade, with the exception of food shops, such as grocers' shops. This seasonal nature of the trade is a disadvantage, particularly in cafes and hotels, because it is virtually impossible to retain the same staff from season to season. It is therefore often necessary, during the period of peak employment, to engage persons with no previous experience of the catering industry. However, the Department is fortunate in having secured, in nearly all instances, the willing co-operation of management staffs, and in general the standards of cleanliness and hygiene are high. Food shops are, naturally more fortunate in possessing reasonably stable staffs, and in general, cleanliness of person, utensils and premises has been very satisfactory. It has not been found necessary to institute any formal proceedings for infringements of the regulations, verbal or informal comment being normally all that has been required.

Meat Inspection.

The only slaughterhouse in the District is situated in the goods yard of Bude Railway Station and owned by British Railways. The lease, formerly held by the Council, is now held by a private person. The building is a reasonably modern one, but an increase in the throughput, particularly with regard to the export trade, has placed an additional strain on the already somewhat inadequate sewage disposal arrangements, with a resultant deterioration in the quality of the effluent.

Further, it has become increasingly obvious that the slaughterhouse itself, particularly with regard to hanging space for carcasses, is inadequate to deal with present requirements. During the year, the leaseholder submitted draft proposals for enlargement of the slaughterhall and hanging space, and other proposals which would bring the building into line with the requirements of the new legislation and regulations dealing with slaughterhouses. Little progress had been made with this proposal by the end of the year. This is to be regretted both from the point of view of maintaining hygienic standards, and because of the difficulties of inspection of the meat during periods of congestion, and it is to be hoped that progress will be made in 1959.

The regular staff of the slaughterhouse has consisted of three full-time slaughtermen, and one labourer, who have been able to deal adequately with the available trade. The total throughput for the slaughterhouse for the year was :-

Steers.....	222
Heifers.....	292
Cows and bulls.....	78
Calves.....	54
Sheep.....	20,914
Ewes and rams.....	752
Pigs.....	566
Sows and boars.....	7

Total	22,885
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Table V shows that the incidence of tuberculosis both in cattle and pigs has once again shown a decrease compared with the previous year. Two cows, and one other bovine, presented lesions of generalised tuberculosis, and were totally condemned. One calf and one pig were also totally condemned for a similar reason. The number of carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned for tuberculosis showed an increase in the case of cows, but a decrease was evident in the case of other bovines, and pigs.

The number of carcasses wholly condemned for diseases other than tuberculosis was nil in all bovines and calves, remained approximately the same in respect of sheep, and showed a considerable increase in the case of pigs, when account is taken of the fact that only about two thirds of the number for the previous year were slaughtered. Pregnancy toxæmia was again found frequently in gravid ewes in the earlier part of the year, when fascioliasis was comparatively rare. Towards the last quarter of the year, however, a dramatic increase in the incidence of this latter condition was manifest, due undoubtedly to the wetness of the weather. The condition was often associated with emaciation and oedema, and this was frequently the cause of total condemnation of sheep. A cirrhotic condition of the liver in bovines was rare, except towards the end of the year, when some instances were found.

The number of calves handled again fell off considerably, to an almost negligible amount. Those slaughtered were remarkably free from disease, with the exception of one case of generalised tuberculosis. The nature and sites of the lesions, revealed on post-mortem inspection, did not indicate that the disease was in congenital form, and the case was not reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

During the year 11 cases of infection by cysticercus bovis were discovered, and confirmed by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Plymouth. Of these, seven occurred in cattle other than cows, and four in cows. In no case was the condition generalised, the maximum number of cysts being located in any one instance being two. Many of the cysts were viable, and they were found in ten instances in the masseter muscles, and in one case in the myocardium. The relative incidence of cysticercus bovis in cattle other than cows was 1.36%, and in cows 5.12%. This represents a considerable increase over previous figures which it is difficult to explain. Follow-up investigations were made in each case, but no information of any concrete value was found. In each case the beasts, other than the condemned parts or organs, were consigned to deep freeze treatment for twenty-one days, facilities for this service normally being provided by the Launceston Abattoir Company.

The amount of other food and tinned goods which it was found necessary to condemn remained inconsiderable.

Disposal of condemned meat and other foods.

Condemned meat, both from the slaughterhouse and local butchers' shops, is stained and removed by a contractor, who sterilises and processes it, and converts it into animal feeding stuffs, etc.

Tinned and similar goods are taken to the Council's refuse tip and buried.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

There are 25 ice-cream dealers in the district who retail the product, three other premises being registered, but not operative. All the active dealers retail ice-cream manufactured by the multiple manufacturers, and little trouble is experienced with the wrapped variety of the commodity. In nearly all cases where an unsatisfactory sample was recorded, this was taken from a bulk loose sample, and the contamination was undoubtedly due to lack of care in the handling, cleansing and sterilisation of serving equipment. The tradesman who manufactured locally, mentioned in previous reports, has not carried out the recommendations of the Council with regard to his premises and equipment, nor has he manufactured or sold any ice-cream during the year.

The same number of samples was taken for 1958 as for the previous year, and whilst the overall picture is not quite of such a standard, it is, nevertheless, satisfactory.

Summary of results of samples - 1958.

Provisional methylene Blue Test.

Result in Grade I	-	72.22%
II	-	19.44%
III	-	5.55%
IV	-	2.79%

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Classified list of factories as at 31st December, 1958

<u>Nature of employment</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-power</u>
1. Food manufacture	4	-
2. Wearing apparel (a) Boots and shoes	3	6
(b) Outfitting	1	-
3. Carpentry, joinery and saw mills	6	2
4. Garages, repair shops and engineers	9	2
5. Laundries	1	-
6. Monumental masons	1	1
7. Gas Works	1	-
8. Plumbers	-	2
9. Dairies	-	3
10. Photography	-	2
11. Printing works	1	-
12. Electrical engineers	1	1
13. Cabinet makers and upholsterers	-	3

<u>Inspections</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	25
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	41
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority excluding out-workers' premises	4	10
	50	76

<u>Cases in which Defects were Found</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>
	11	-

Defects Remedied - 11

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
DISEASES

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Smallpox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, Scarlet Fever, Typhus Fever, Typhoid Fever, Paratyphoid Fever, Relapsing fever, Plague, Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Dysentery, Puerperal Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Acute primary pneumonia, Acute influenzal pneumonia, Whooping cough, Measles, Acute encephalitis, Meningococcal infection and Food Poisoning.

In cases of infectious disease, preliminary investigations are carried out by the Public Health Inspector, when advice is given regarding current disinfection, segregation of contacts, etc. Terminal disinfection, when necessary, is carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Diphtheria - No case was notified during the year, in which 34 children received a complete course of primary immunisation against the disease, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in almost all instances.

Whooping Cough One case was notified in 1958. As far as can be ascertained from the records, this child had not been immunised against the disease.

Measles - Two cases were notified during the year

Food poisoning - No cases were notified during 1958

Poliomyelitis - No cases were notified during 1958. Vaccination against this disease continued. A further extension of the scheme was announced towards the end of the year, with the introduction of third or booster injections and the extension of the age range to include all those born since the beginning of 1933.

During 1958, 512 persons in the Urban District completed the primary course of two injections. The majority of these were children, but the number included some young adults and some adults in the priority groups, e.g. expectant mothers. By the end of the year, 744 persons had received the primary course of vaccination since the introduction of the scheme in 1956.

Smallpox. - No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 34 primary vaccinations and 11 re-vaccinations were carried out.

Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>
Cases on Register 31.12.57	18	-	9	1
No. of cases notified during the year	1	-	-	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	1	-	1	-
Cases removed	1	-	1	-
<hr/>				
Total on Register 31.12.58	19	-	9	1
<hr/>				

B.C.G. Vaccination continues to be offered to all susceptible contacts of known cases, most of whom avail themselves of this protection.

The scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of susceptible school leavers was continued by the County Council during the year, again with a good response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung.

During 1958, out of a total of 13 deaths from all forms of cancer, two deaths, one male and one female, were due to cancer of the lung. This brings the total of deaths from this cause in the district from 1949 to 15 male and 5 female deaths. During the same period, there have been 64 male and 63 female deaths from all forms of cancer. In a decade, therefore, almost one quarter of all male cancer deaths have been due to cancer of the lung. The female proportion, although smaller, is still not negligible. It must be remembered, too, that these are deaths only, and nothing is known of the number who may be under treatment for this condition or under observation following treatment.

The association of this disease with smoking, and, in particular, with cigarette smoking, is now established. Atmospheric pollution can hardly be held to be a factor in a seaside urban district, without industry, bounded on one side by 3,000 miles of ocean from which the prevailing winds blow.

No disease has ever excited such intense interest, nor has any had such widespread publicity. No form of cancer has ever offered such an opportunity to the individual for prevention. There can be no adult or adolescent in the Western Hemisphere who has not experienced the propaganda in this connection, yet the tobacco habit still retains its hold.

Youth thinks itself indestructible and the young do not concern themselves with such a remote possibility as death. Adult example is more powerful in its silent advocacy of the smoking habit than the most beguiling advertisement produced by a tobacco manufacturer.

The adolescent apes his elders, and the adoption of smoking is a symbol of his new-found freedom from the restraints of childhood. The adult smoker who cannot free himself from the habit may do well to reflect that it is not only his own health which may be at stake, but also that of children still in the classrooms.

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases
and Deaths - 1958

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for Previous Years

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population (estimated)</u>	<u>Births</u>		<u>Deaths</u>			
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Crude Rate</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				<u>No.</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1954	5,130	64	12.47	-	-	80	15.59
1955	5,150	55	10.68	1	18.18	82	15.92
1956	5,180	70	13.51	1	14.28	63	12.16
1957	5,220	44	8.43	2	45.45	79	15.13
1958	5,190	54	10.40	-	-	101	19.46

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3

TABLE IV

Summary of Public Health Inspector's Inspections

Description of premises	No. of visits	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied
Bakehouses	23	8	8
Dairies	21	-	-
Food preparation premises	315	29	29
Factories	53	2	2
Housing	286	34	34
Butchers	191	7	7
Shops	31	-	-
Water supplies	83	10	10
Verminous premises	-	-	-
Pests destruction	55	-	-

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year

Overcrowding	-	Refuse receptacles	53
Keeping of animals	32	Camping sites	23
Sanitary accommodation		Yard paving	-
(a) insufficient	10	Dampness	11
(b) defective	7	Roofs and R.W.pipes	2
Drainage		Floors	2
(a) reconstructed	-	Walls and ceilings	23
(b) repaired	2	Windows and ventilation	-
(c) cleansed	32	Water supplies	10
Cesspools			
(a) abolished	1		
(b) repaired	2		

Total visits of all kinds made by the
Public Health Inspector during the year 2103

TABLE V

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	514	78	54	21,666	566	NIL
No. inspected	514	78	54	21,666	566	NIL
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	49	4	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	10	NIL	249	NIL	NIL
Percentage of no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	2.33%	12.82%	0.00%	1.37%	0.71%	NIL
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	1	NIL	1	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	4	NIL	NIL	5	NIL
Percentage of no. inspected effected with tuberculosis	0.97%	7.69%	1.85%	0.0%	1.06%	NIL
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	4	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	4	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL